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AMBLECOTE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



# REPORTS

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

AND

## Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

December 31st, 1953



STOURBRIDGE

J. Thos. Ford, Limited, Printers and Manufacturing Stationers

1954

# Amblecote Urban District Council.

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## Annual Report

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ending December 31st, 1953.

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MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you the Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1953.

The Vital Statistics show a Crude Death Rate of 12.3 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 14.4 for 1952. The Live Birth Rate was 12.6 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 12.8 for 1952. There were 2 Still-births. The Infantile Mortality Rate was nil per 1000 live births.

Housing and Overcrowding are dealt with in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

There has been no change in the Industrial Circumstances of your District since my last report.

## GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District in Acres	-	-	-	665
Number of Persons per acre	-	-	-	4.5
Population (Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population, middle of 1953)	-	-	-	3016
Number of inhabited houses	-	-	-	937
Average number of persons per house	-	-	-	3.4
Rateable Value	-	-	-	£20,255
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	-	-	-	£79

## VITAL STATISTICS.

Rate per 1000 of the Estimated Resident Population.

						Rate per 1000 of the Estimated Resident Population.
Live	}	Legitimate	Total 38 :	M. 20	F. 18	12.6
Births		Illegitimate	— :	—	—	

Still-Births, Legitimate, Total 2 ; Rate per 1000  
Total (live and still-births) - - - 50

Birth Rate, England & Wales, 1953 - - - 15.5

Deaths - 37--Males, 23 ; Females, 14 ;  
Crude Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated  
resident population - - - 12.3  
Adjusted Death Rate per 1000 - - - 10.7  
Death Rate, England & Wales, 1953 - - - 11.4

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis or other Puerperal causes Nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age - - - Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :  
(per 1000 live births) - - - Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—  
England & Wales - 26.8 per 1000

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) - - - 5  
Death Rate from Cancer per 1000 of the population 1.6

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	-	-	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	-	-	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	-	-	Nil.

Ages at which deaths occurred (37).

Under 1 year	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and over
Nil	Nil	1	Nil	4	8	24

7 of these deaths occurred at ages from 70 to 80 years,  
and 13 over 80 years.

## CAUSES OF DEATH (Registrar General's Return).

DISEASES.	1952		1953	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers -	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever -	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever -	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough -	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria -	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System -	-	-	-	-
Other Forms of Tuberculosis -	-	-	-	-
Syphilis -	-	-	-	-
Influenza -	1	2	-	-
Measles -	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis -	-	-	-	-
Acute Infectious Encephalitis -	-	-	-	-
Cancer -	8	2	4	1
Diabetes -	-	-	-	-
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions -	3	3	8	5
Heart Disease -	6	7	5	5
Other Diseases of Circulatory System -	-	-	-	1
Bronchitis -	3	2	1	-
Pneumonia -	2	-	-	-
Other Respiratory Diseases -	-	-	-	-
Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum -	-	-	-	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) -	-	-	-	-
Appendicitis -	-	-	-	-
Other Digestive Diseases -	-	-	-	-
Nephritis -	-	-	1	-
Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis -	-	-	-	-
Other Maternal Causes -	-	-	-	-
Premature Birth -	-	1	-	-
Congenital Malformations and Birth Injuries -	-	-	-	-
Suicide -	1	-	-	-
Road Traffic Accidents -	-	-	-	-
Other Violent Causes -	1	1	3	-
All other Causes -	1	-	1	2
TOTALS -	26	18	23	14
	44		37	



## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

As 1938

### ADOPTIVE ACTS.

As 1938

### SECTION B.

#### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA.

ii (a) Laboratory Facilities :

All Clinical Material sent to the County Bacteriologist,  
Stafford.

Bacteriological Examinations :

Number of Specimens sent for Report	-	25
	Total.      Positive.      Negative.	
Diphtheria (Swabs)	Nil	Nil
Sputum	25	2
		23

The duty of providing the following services has been laid upon Staffordshire County Council in accordance with the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, viz :

Health Centres ;  
Care of Mothers and Young Children ;  
Midwifery ;  
Health Visiting ;  
Home Nursing ;  
Vaccination and Immunisation ;  
Ambulance Services ;  
Prevention of Illness—care and aftercare ;  
Domestic Help.  
Blind Persons.

No powers have been delegated to the Council.

## HOSPITALS.

GENERAL AND FOR THE TREATMENT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

These are controlled by a Regional Board and are available for the treatment of Patients who have been duly notified.

## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) WATER. As 1938.

(ii) DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE. As 1938.

2. RIVERS & STREAMS. As 1938.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation.

(ii) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

*The particulars will be found in the Report of the  
Sanitary Inspector.*

(iii) Swimming Baths and Pools. As 1938.

4. SCHOOLS. One Junior School—recently transferred to the County Council.

5. DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD. As 1938.

## SECTION D.

### HOUSING.

#### HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1953.

1. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	-	-	3
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2. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—*

(A)—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 & 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	-	-	Nil.
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :—

(a) By Owners	-	-	-	Nil.
---------------	---	---	---	------

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	-	-	-	Nil.
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(B).—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11 AND 13 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	-	-	2
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	-	-	Nil.
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(C).—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	-	-	-	-	Nil.
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(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	-	-	-	-	Nil.
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4. *Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :—*

(a)	(1)	Number of Dwellings overcrowded at end of year (1953)	-	-	-	Nil.
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	-			Nil.
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	-			Nil.
(b)		Number of New Cases of Overcrowding reported during the year	-	-	-	Nil.
(c)	(1)	Number of Cases of Overcrowding relieved during the year	-	-	-	Nil.
	(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	-			Nil.
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	-	-		Nil.

**HOUSING CONDITIONS AND OVERCROWDING**

*(See Report of Sanitary Inspector).*

**SECTION E.****INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

- (a) Milk Supply ;
- (b) Meat and other foods.

*(See Report of Sanitary Inspector).*

- (c), (d) Adulteration, etc. Food & Drugs Acts, etc.—are administered by the County Council.
- (e) Nutrition : No action has been taken.
- (f) Shell Fish: Little, if any, sold in the District.

SECTION F.  
PREVALENCE & CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.  
(2) NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1953.

DISEASE.	Total No. of Cases.	AGES.											Cases sent to Isolat'n Hos- pital.	Deaths
		under 1 year	1 to 2 yrs.	2 to 3 yrs.	3 to 4 yrs.	4 to 5 yrs.	5 to 10 yrs.	10 to 15 yrs.	15 to 20 yrs.	20 to 35 yrs.	35 to 45 yrs.	45 to 65 yrs.		
Enteric Fever ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever ...	3	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping-cough ...	3	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles ...	55	1	4	7	11	8	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia ...	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals ...	64	1	5	7	11	10	27	-	-	1	1	1	-	-

## 5. (a) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS. As 1938.

(b) **TUBERCULOSIS, 1953.**

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non- Respiratory		Respira- tory.		Non- Respira- tory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 10 „	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 to 15 „	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 20 „	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 to 25 „	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 to 35 „	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 to 45 „	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 to 55 „	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 to 65 „	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

# **FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948**

## **Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1953 for the Urban District of Amblecote in the County of Stafford.**

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

### 1.—**INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. .. .	1	11	5	2	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Auth- ority. .. .. .	2	35	9	2	—	2
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises) .. .. .	3	—	—	—	—	3
<b>TOTAL ..</b>		46	14	4	—	

### 2. Cases in which **DEFECTS** were found

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4						4
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	5						5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6						6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7						7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8						8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) insufficient .. .. .	9						9
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	10	4	4	—	—	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	11						11
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	12						12
<b>TOTAL ..</b>		4	4	—	—	—	

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

**J. H. SIMPKISS,**

Medical Officer of Health.



# Amblecote Urban District Council.

## Annual Report

OF THE

## Sanitary Inspector

For the Year 1953.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my report for the Year 1953 in as concise a form as possible.

### Sanitary Accommodation

Houses provided with Water Closets	-	923	}	937
Houses provided with Pan Closets	-	4		
Houses provided with Earth Closets	-	10		
Houses provided with separate Water Closets		804	}	937
Houses provided with Water Closets in common		119		
Houses provided with Pan and Earth Closets		14		

The houses not provided with Water Closets are situated in an outlying part of your district where a sewer is not available and which is extensively worked for Mining of Fire Clay. They are scattered and the land adjoining is subject to subsidence.

### Removal of Household Refuse

923 Houses out of 937 are provided with suitable portable receptacles for the household ashes and refuse. They are the property of either the owners or occupiers. Notices in respect of worn-out Dust Bins have been complied with. Removal of Refuse is performed by Direct Labour. Collection is bi-weekly. Disposal is by tipping. As the tip is also used for commercial purposes the refuse is quickly covered. The Vehicle is "Horse-drawn." It has proved efficient and more economical than a mechanically propelled one. No necessity has arisen for the Council to consider the provision of Dust Bins. Although appeals have been made to householders not to deposit inflammable material in the Bins the quantity still remains excessive.

Salvage Collection. Salvage is not collected. Parcels are called for by arrangement with the Chief Sanitary Inspector of Brierley Hill Urban District Council.

### Housing

12 only of the 48 flats have been completed ready for occupation during 1953. The remaining 36 will not satisfy the number of



applicants for houses. Land for building—excepting a few isolated plots—is not available. One house has been provided by Private Enterprise and one is in course of erection. Both are for owner-occupiers.

### Housing Conditions

The houses in your district may be classified as follows :—

Houses with one Bedroom	-	-	1	} 937
Houses with two Bedrooms	-	-	318	
Houses with three Bedrooms	-	-	533	
Houses with more than three Bedrooms	-	-	85	

Demolition of Nos. 50/51 High Street is proceeding and orders have been made in respect of Nos. 95/96 High Street. They were reported as “unfit for human habitation.” No. 1 Withymoor will be demolished by the owners when vacant possession is obtained. It has been rendered “unfit” by Fire Clay Mining. The number of unfit houses demolished since 1910—including Nos. 50/51 High Street is 94. The Council have provided 200 houses excluding the 48 flats. No “Repair Notices” under the Housing Acts have been issued. General Defects at the following houses have been dealt with, viz. :— Box Hill—Nos. 18 to 21 ; Brettell Lane—Nos. 2 & 3, 8 and 9, 15, 19, 36 ; Collis Street—Nos. 14, 36, 45, 88 ; Dial Lane No. 2 ; King William Street—46 and 47, 125 and 126, 142, 155. Abatement Notices—Informal and Statutory—within the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, were served on the owners of 43 houses. No enforcement proceedings have been necessary. The rents of most of the houses excluding those owned by the Council are controlled by the Rent Acts. As building Costs and Rates show a tendency to increase, owners of houses are reluctant to find money for repairs.

Overcrowding. There is little actual overcrowding. The average number of persons per house is 3.4. Occupation by two families, generally related, is common. The majority of applicants for houses are from married sons or daughters residing with their parents. Such arrangements are not always happy ones, particularly where there are young children. The number of separate families is estimated to be about 1100 accommodated in 937 houses.

### Nomadic Caravan Dwellers

Two families took possession of sites at Mill Meadow and Bagleys Road. As there was no water supply or sanitary accommodation available the occupiers of the land were advised to give them notice to leave. They left as requested.

### Eradication of Bed Bugs, Etc.

No premises have been found to be infested and no complaint of infestation has been received.

## Water Supply

All premises, excepting one, receive a continuous and pure supply of water for drinking and domestic purposes from the mains of Stourbridge and District Water Board. It is pumped direct from the Bore Holes at Wollaston Road and Mill Meadow, both of which are in your area. Samples of the water for Chemical and Bacteriological Examination are submitted at frequent intervals to Laboratories provided by the County Council. They show a certain Hardness otherwise the water is of excellent quality for drinking.

### Milk—Retailers—Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order 1952

There are two producers only of Milk in your area. The Milk is taken direct to a Dairy in a neighbouring District for treatment. There is no Dairy in Amblecote. Under the provisions of the above order all Milk sold by retail in your area must be "Designated" Milk contained in bottles. Supplementary Licences to retail Milk in Amblecote have been issued to nine persons whose premises are outside the district and ten Shopkeepers within the district have each received a retailer's licence.

### Food—Public Health (Meat) Regulations

No Slaughter-house is used in your District. One was in use regularly up to 1939. It is now dilapidated. There are three retail Butchers who are supplied with meat, etc., from a Central Depot at Brierley Hill which is controlled by the Ministry of Food. All the animals and carcasses are inspected by qualified Inspectors. No intimation has been received from the Butchers as to their proposals when meat is decontrolled. Domestic pig feeding is not common. One complaint arising from the keeping of swine was received and dealt with. No notice to slaughter on private premises was given during 1953.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933. Two persons only are licensed to slaughter or stun animals in a slaughter house.

### Food Distribution

Food is sold by retail in the following shops :—

Business premises only—Grocers 5; Butchers 1; Greengrocer 1. Combined Shops and dwelling houses—Grocers and General 9; Butchers 2; Greengrocers 3; Sweets and Tobacco, Etc. 2; Fried Fish 3; Cafe 1.

Worcestershire County Council have a Cooking Centre where meals are prepared and conveyed to Schools.

Eight Factories have Canteens for their employees.

One "Model" Bakery (Factory) is in operation from which Bread is distributed over a wide area.



No Ice Cream is manufactured in your area. 14 premises are registered for storage and sale thereof. They each have suitable "Conservators." The premises comprise 11 Shops, 1 Café, 1 Sports Pavilion, 1 Public House.

The model Bye-laws of the Ministry of Food for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food sold or intended for sale for human consumption were adopted and came into operation on 11th September, 1950. They are generally well observed.

There is no market nor stalls for street trading.

### Unsound Food

The only food found to be unsound and unfit for human consumption was 15½lbs. Tinned Ham of German Origin. It was surrendered and returned to the wholesalers to be dealt with in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Food.

### Prevention of Damage by Pests

The following premises have been treated for infestations of Rats and Mice, viz. :—Factories 4, Hospital 1, Dwelling Houses 7, Refuse Tips 2. Regular quarterly treatment is recommended for Factories. Infestation at factories usually arises from indifferent disposal of waste food and at dwelling houses from keeping fowls. The work generally is carried out by an "Operator" employed by Brierley Hill Urban District Council by arrangement with Mr. H. J. Parker, Chief Sanitary Inspector. His assistance is appreciated. A charge to cover the cost of treatment is made in respect of premises other than Dwelling Houses. It has not been necessary to treat the Sewers. Previous tests proved definitely negative.

### Smoke and Atmospheric Pollution

Excessive omissions of smoke were observed from three factory chimney stacks. At one works the trouble has been overcome by changing to electricity for power. Considerable time and thought has been given in an endeavour to permanently cure the trouble at the other two. An experiment is being made with a new type of furnace door in one instance and in the other an expert is being called in from the Ministry of Fuel and Power to advise on the means of overcoming the trouble. Both Firms are anxious to prevent the nuisance.

### Pet Animals Act, 1951

One licence only has been issued. It was in respect of "Goldfish" kept for sale. An application for renewal is not anticipated.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

HAROLD PIPER,  
Sanitary Inspector.

June, 1954.